

## Deciding where to study – Is the institution registered?

Outside of the university, or FET college, or well-known private higher education institution, how are you to know where to study, what to study, and what the study is worth? There are many genuine (registered and accredited) institutions that offer CHE accredited programmes; but there are also many illegal (“fly-by-night”) operators (with some offering a number of online degrees often claiming to be based on life experience or which are simply for sale). So, how are you to know?

Do not waste time, money, or effort that leads to disappointment and frustration by registering with a “fly-by-night” operation. There is no legal protection or guarantee of minimum quality standards which comes with registration as a higher education institution. Further, certificates will not be recognised by employers or legitimate higher education institutions.

Links and contact numbers for checking the status of education institutions:

### Public Higher Education Institutions (Universities and FET Colleges)

To see the list of public universities or FET colleges:

<http://www.dhet.gov.za/EducationInstitutions/Universities/tabid/172/Default.aspx>

<http://www.dhet.gov.za/EducationInstitutions/FETColleges/tabid/174/Default.aspx>

To lay a complaint against a public university contact: The Deputy Director: Constituency Affairs, at 012 312 5574.

### Private Higher Education Institutions

To verify whether the institution or programme is registered and accredited consult the *Register of Private Higher Education Institutions* at: <http://www.dhet.gov.za/>

### Private FET Colleges

To verify whether a private FET college is registered and accredited consult the *List of Registered Private FET Colleges* at:

<http://www.dhet.gov.za/Structure/VCET/PrivateFETColleges/tabid/405/Default.aspx>.

For more information or to lay a complaint against a private higher education institution or private FET college, contact the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET): Mrs K Mokoboto (Deputy Director) at 012 312 5254, email: [registrarphei@dhet.gov.za](mailto:registrarphei@dhet.gov.za), or the DHET Call Centre: 080 087 2222.

### General Information

If career advice is needed, contact: *NQF and Career Advice Helpline Number*: 0860 111 673 or go to <http://www.nqf.org.za/page/news/809104-NQF-and-Career-Advice-Helpline-helps-clients-navigate-career-paths>

If assistance is needed with the evaluation of foreign qualifications, contact: *SAQA Foreign Qualifications Evaluation and Advisory Services Call Centre*: 012 431 5070. This number also serves for any complaints related to the evaluation of foreign qualifications. For more information go to <http://www.saqa.org.za/show.asp?include=docs/brochures/ceeq-main.htm>